

THE
Seaman's Opinion
OF A
Standing Army
IN
ENGLAND.

In Opposition to a
Fleet at Sea, the Best
Security of This Kingdom.

A LETTER to a Merchant,
Written by a SAILOR.

Printed according to Order.

Printed, and sold by the Bookellers of London
and Westminster, 1699.

Price 1s. 6d.

The Sea-man's Opinion of a Standing Army, &c.

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I Have read with no small consideration, the Argument for and against a Standing Army, so warmly argued on both sides; one making false Weights and Measures, allowing nothing to be true Weight that is not weigh'd at the Court-Beam; while the others lay their Reasons and Arguments in the Peoples Scale, and weigh the common Interest and our Constitution against the Courts Projects. I must confess, the latter are much in the right, for Laws were made for the general Good of all the Subjects, and are by no means to be altered to the prejudice of the People: The English Constitution has no respect to those future Contingencies and Emergences which may happen to crowned Heads. Our Fore-fathers thought those Laws which were of Force and Virtue enough to keep them in the possession of their Estates, equally powerful to secure the Regalities of the Crown to the King, and would be alike advantageous to their Posterity; and I know no Reason why we should be of another Opinion.—The main Reason the Court-party offers for a Standing Army, is the entire Confidence we may repose in the King on the account of the heroick Virtues inherent in him and his firm and sincere Intentions to the preservation of the Nation, and the Rights of the Subject; so that if the People of England do not trust the King with their Lives, Liberties and Estates, they would insinuate as if they did mistrust him. I may know my Neighbour to be a very honest Man and yet have no occasion to trust him with the Deeds of my Estate, my Money or Goods: nor need the People exchange *Magna Charta* for the King's Letters Patents for their Liberties *durante beneplacito*; for so it must be when he is arm'd with force at any time to take it away. I have much, nay, a greater esteem of the Royal and Princely

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Virtues of his Majesty, than any Courtier of them all; and though I could trust the King with a great deal, yet I should not care to trust them with a little. A Government settled by the People of *England* ought to be maintained by them; and without doubt the People will maintain a King in those Rights and Prerogatives they have granted and confirmed to him, otherwise it will be a Reflection which hitherto has not happened upon them: but to maintain a Government upon any other Principles, than such on which it is founded, is ridiculous. The Superstructure ought to be conform to the Foundation, the Building otherwise is irregular and inartificial; and for the People to undermine the Foundation of their Liberties, and raze it to the ground, only to build a Pyramid of Honour, or a Triumphal Arch for a Prince, is downright Nonsense. A Government ought to be supported; but it must be consider'd withal how it deviated from its Institution: when we know what a Government is, we can quickly find fit props to support it, and fit Force to defend it. 'Tis pity there should be a distinction betwixt the King, and the Government, which it must be allowed when the Courtiers call themselves the Government: As a certain Person was committed to the Custody of a Messenger by the Secretary's Warrant, for publishing and dispersing a seditious and scandalous Libel against His Majesty and Government; whereas it only contain'd Matter of Fact against some Commissioners. Well then, these Commissioners are the Government; and I am of opinion, if it be thus, that 'tis not worth our while to keep up twenty thousand Men to support it. Setting themselves thus up, they lessen the King and his Prerogative; as if the King had the Legislative, and they the governing Power. Evil Ministers and Officers have in all Times prov'd prejudicial to the Prince that employ'd them; for they acting after an illegal and arbitrary manner in their several Stations, cause suspicion that the Prince by whom they are commissioned, will, when enabled with Force, do the like, or worse: and tho ill Ministers and Officers may act illegally, and after an arbitrary manner, without the Knowledge, nay contrary to the Consent and Appro-

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bation of the Prince; yet all their Actions tend to the weakening of his Government, and to create Jealousies in his People. Men judge of the Fountain by the Purity of the Stream; Impurity of the Streams; and Justice being deny'd or delay'd by Officers and Ministers, they presently look back to the original Contract and Coronation Oath, with a great deal of Doubt and Hesitation. It was a noble and glorious Saying of our great and renowned Prince *Edw. 3* when he hang'd his Chief Justice *Thorpe*, of the King's Bench, for taking a Bribe of 100 l. That he being intrusted as the King's Deputy, to administer Justice in that Court, had as much as in him lay broken that Solemn Oath that his Majesty made to his People at his Coronation. Instead of a Land Force to defend Evil Ministers, this wise Prince procur'd a Halter to hang them. If Men in great Offices have been guilty of enormous Crimes, have lavishly spent and squander'd away Parliamentary Funds rais'd for the security of the Nation, must the People of England make a rent in their Constitution, and raise and pay Twenty thousand Men to maintain them in their vicious Practices, and secure them from the Violence and Insults of the common People? They are grown already to such a height, that their is no way of calling them to an Account. If an inferior Officer commit a Crime, rob, embezzle, plunder the Nation, enrich themselves with the Publick Spoils of the Kingdom, and a complaint be made to the Lords of the Treasury, they refer it (after the Complainer has a long time attended) to the Board complain'd against: after a long attendance (five or six Months I have known it) a Report is made; the Treasury acquiesces with the Report, and the Complainer frustrated of his honest Intentions. It is a Law amongst us never to hear the Complaint of an Inferiour Officer against a Superiour; as one of the Commissioners of the Exchequer told a certain Person, that there was a Resolution taken by all the Commissioners in the Kingdom, that if an Inferiour Officer complain'd of Mismanagement, they would represent him either as a Fool or a Knave, or else make him so uneasy that he should be forc'd to quit his Employment; and this appears to be true, for most, if not all the

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officers that have complain'd of Mismanagements, have
 been discharg'd for so doing. How then shall these Men
 be punished? Why the last Resort you know is a Parlia-
 ment; and if you read over the List, you will soon find
 how many Courtiers were there, Judges of their own Cause,
 back'd Auditors of their own Accounts. So that, Sir, I think
 you are in a fine pickle, if ever these Men get a
 standing Army to support their Mismanagements by point
 of Sword, and the powerful Arguments of Pike and Gun:
 For our Controversy is not about trusting the King with a
 standing Army, we pay Him all the Deference imaginable;
 but we are loth to be at the charge of guarding of those
 that have not regarded the Publick Good, nor those worthy
 Gentlemen that ventur'd their Lives to bring the King to
 the Throne, and to promote them to Offices of Trust and
 the greatest Profit. Their restless Endeavours to gain the
 point of a Standing Army, have other meanings in them,
 than the specious pretence of Publick Safety. When the
 Fox preaches, beware of the Geese; there is some Fetch or
 other, some Snake or other in the Grass, that will not
 wriggle it self into view, but under the Umbrage of a
 Land Force. You must bear, Sir, with my homely Com-
 parisons, as well as with my indifferent Language; we
 don't pretend to polite Learning, and finery of Speech.
 But to illustrate my Discourse, I must tell you, that the
 Voyage I made was to *New-England*, the Commander
 of the Ship I sail'd in was a Man of Virtue and Probity, very
 skilful in Navigation, and one that had a due regard to the
 Profit and Advantage of his Owners. But the Mate, Boat-
 swain, Gunner, and other Officers, were men of vicious
 Principles, and work'd so far upon the good Nature of the
 Captain, that they got entire possession of him, to the no
 small loss of the Merchants, and the trouble of all the ho-
 nest Sailors aboard. When we came to *New-England*, and
 had taken in our Loading, being homeward bound, they per-
 suaded him to take more Men, more Forces aboard. Under
 pretence of Advice they had received from *England* of some
Turkish Men of War that lay in the Chaps of the Eng^lish
 Channel. The poor Captain believ'd a necessity upon such
 plausible

...pretences of augmenting his Forces, being unwilling
 to have his Ship pirated from him; The Forces were
 falling asleepe, when it was discover'd that these Fellow
 had a design to run away with the Ship; so that had their
 Design taken effect, the good natur'd Captain had been
 thrown overboard, and I had now been among the *Mada-
 gascar* Pirates. Ill Men contrive all ways, first to raise them-
 selves by Villany, and then to support themselves in it. The
 same Effect your Land-Force may have upon you; Your
 Captain I know is a good Commander, of Principle and
 Address, and I verily believe designs you no harm; but his
 under Officers, if they design'd you any good, would have
 done it before this time. Besides, if you have a mind to
 keep your King, keep him from a Standing Army: King
James had been here still, had it not been for his Standing
 Army, an Army model'd by the Vipers which lay in his
 Bosom for that purpose. I like the Effects of that Design
 so well, that I desire no more of that nature: We have a
 Government founded upon good Principles; a Revolution
 of which every step has attended by Divine Providence; a
 King, who governs according to the Rules of Justice at
 home, and is the Head and Leader of our Armies abroad,
 to his own immortal Honour, and the good and welfare of
 his People; and every good Englishman and Christian ought
 to bless God for it. An English King, and an English Peo-
 ple, sute well together; and since we are blest with both,
 we have no reason to promote new Whimsies in the head
 of one, to create Jealousies in the other. The notion of
 an Invasion from the Man abroad is not so much a Proposi-
 tion of Horror, as the notion of our Liberties being inva-
 ded at home; and we are in more danger of those Horse-
 leaches of Government that fill themselves from the Veins
 of the State, than from Foreign Troops. Money is the
 Sinews of War; but the Sinews once weakned, the Body is
 in a tottering condition. A Standing Army must be fed,
 and when once without Pay, must live upon Free-quarter;
 for there is no reason that Men rais'd for the service of their
 Country, should starve in it. I would fain know what
 these Men would do with a Standing Army, unless (as be-
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fore) to guard them from the Violence of the Mob. Where should they encamp, to be in a readiness to oppose an Invasion? Had they as many Armies as there are Landing places in England, we might have some Security. Few of these Men that talk of Standing Armies, have had the Courage to go abroad to the Wars; but now perhaps for their Diversion, at the expence of the Kingdom, they are willing to see *Namur* taken at *Windsor*, or a Butterfly Camp at *Hounslow-Heath*, where the Forces must attend the Motions of the Man abroad:

Where the Knights Errant lie Legs across.

Expecting what must never come to pass.

They Sky falling to the utter destruction of the whole Species of Larks; French Invaders in Fleets of flying Wheelbarrows, and abundance of such odd Chimera's, if not worse. How will they model this Army? as they have done the Civil Offices? Will they fill Commissions with rancour'd Tories, confirm'd Jacobites, and Non-Jurors? Shall Men of Worth, Merit and Affection to the Government, be as scarce in this Army as they are in the Customs and Navy? God forbid! How many years Purchase must a Commission be sold for; and where will be the place of Sale, and who the Broker, now Sir *Fleet* is dead? Few of the King's, and their Country's Friends, have got Money to buy; must they be sold to those that got Pardon-money in the late Reigns of those that are starving since this Revolution? Well, there may be a formidable Invasion, and the Nation in a great deal of Danger thereupon. The whole strength of the Nation is not able to withstand it, and yet the Party pretend that Twenty thousand men out of that strength shall do it; that is as much as to say, seven Millions of Men are not able to withstand an Invasion, but Twenty thousand of the seven Millions are; the *Minor* is of greater force, power and virtue than the *Major*: if the Folk in power say so, 'tis true enough; better a Nation be ruined, enslav'd, or any thing else, than they be thought to err in Judgment, or miss their Ends. But suppose the worst, that a French Army should land; why then if we han't a Standing Army, the great Places at *White Hall* will

of a Standing Army.

be in a tottering condition; but suppose they don't land and we have a Standing Army in expectation of it; what then the great Folk at *White-Hall* are all the time fingerin' Money raised to pay them, not to their disadvantage to be sure. 'Tis no matter whether we are invaded or no, as long as their Trade goes forward. Now tho' your Earthquake don't disturb the Element I sojourn on, yet I may give my Opinion concerning your Affairs as well as some of you have as to the Management of the Fleet that know no other difference betwixt Salt Water and Fresh than by the Taste. I remember I was at an Anchor in *Studland Bay*; when there was just such another Invasion in the Isle of *Purbeck*, as you Folk expect. If there was then any Standing Army, they were guarding the Royal Ducks in *St. James Park*, or other wise employ'd; but I am sure they were not there. Now without any Royal Mandate, Commission, or any Order from above, the bold *Brittons* assembled in a hostile manner with all the Weapons of Defence the Country could afford and without any Ceremony march'd to the Place of landing. The Rumour of the French Numbers was Ten thousand, and in 48 hours there were a Hundred thousand in Arms in *Dorsetshire*, and the adjoining Counties, who came down time enough to the Sea side to engage the Invaders. I believe these *Hodmandods*, *Raw-heads* and *Bloody-bones*, with which the Children of *England* are now scar'd, should appear, we shall be in a good posture of defence, without Twenty thousand Red Coats, which are more terrifyin' than an Invasion.

Now these Bugbears and Scare-crows, this Visionary Invasion that haunts the Ruins of *White-Hall*, being removed out of sight, let us recover our Senses, and scan the point whether the Militia regulated and disciplin'd may not be as powerful to withstand an Invasion, as Twenty thousand of that Militia (for every one capable of bearing Arms belong to it) list'd and enter'd into Pay. But they say the Militia is not disciplin'd; whose Fault is that? Was it not in their power that contend for a Standing Army, to have disciplin'd the Militia since the Controversy in the House of Commons last Sessions about it? If the Officers of the Militia

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can't be trusted, 'tis the fault of those that made 'em Officers. A negligence in this Point, and tramping up a Standing Army at the same time, looks as if their Army were to do some business the Militia will not do; for it is evident the Militia can do more than twenty times the Forces they desire, when necessity shall require it. Besides, Twenty thousand Men dispers'd are no Army; their being in a body makes them one, but a body can be only in one place at a time. We have abundance of Landing-places, and our Army can be but at one of them, and I know already the Invaders won't land there. Now on the other hand, they can't land no where in *England*, but the Militia will be at the place, enough of them to make a stand till the rest come up; so that if we had a Standing Army, the greatest use of them at that Juncture would be to come in for the Plunder of the field. But the Authors for an Army, like Mr. Bays in the *Rehearsal*, are resolved to present the World with something very ridiculous, and have not yet determin'd the point whether the two Kings of *Brentford* shall head their Standing Army with both Boots on, or one off.

As I don't know the designs, so I am ignorant of the Consequences of what these Men make such a bustle about; but it tends to create a Mistrust in the King of his best Subjects, and tells him plainly he cannot be secure in his Throne, and enjoy his Prerogative, without making an Alteration in our Constitution; and that the People's Liberty, and the Regalities of the Crown cannot be safe at the same time. Now, if I should aver, that our Constitution must of necessity tumble down, if a Branch of the King's Prerogative were not lopt off to make a prop to support it, I suppose the Secretary of State would esteem it a State Crime, and I should be visited with the plague of a Messenger; when at the same time these Authors raile Bulwarks, and plant their Cannons upon them to batter down our Constitution, break down the Fences of our Liberty, and destroy those privileges which have immemorably been the Rights of our Ancesters; and all this canniv'd at, if not encouraged. Have the Liberties of the People no Guardians? Are there none to prosecute such Offenders in the name of the

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Good People of *England*? Where is the Justice, Glory, and Honour of our Ancestors? Are all their glorious Marks obliterated in their Posterity? Are the ends of the World come upon us, that we are willing to see an end of our Liberty? Are our Rights less valuable, our Laws of no less force than formerly? Are we ignominiously willing to give away what our Fore-fathers left us at the expence of their Blood? God forbid that the Children unborn should curse us as cruel Sep-Fathers that have disinherited them of their Birth-right. Will not succeeding Generations think, that either our Rights were not worth keeping, or that we ignominiously betrayed our Children in parting with them? Will not the Roman Honour and Gallantry, which inspired Heathens newly acquainted with Laws and Principles of Government, rise up in judgment against us, when we prove treacherous Deserters of our Liberties, and raise and pay Twenty thousand Men to take possession of our Freedom? Are not those who surrender'd Charters, gave away their Birth-right, and betray'd the Liberties of their Country in the late Reigns, justly branded with the marks of Infamy, and their Memories handed down to Posterity as ignominious and scandalous? And shall we, who have spent many Millions to undo what they did, and retrieve our sinking State from utter Ruin, tread in their steps, act the same Trag dy, and play over the same Game? Was a Standing Army but a few years ago, accounted a Grievance, and now become a thing desirable? Is it not attended with the same danger, or are we grown less sensible of it? Are we in the same condition with those that are troubled with the French Disease, of whom it is said, when once cured they are more desirous to commit the Sin again? Are we elapt to our Understandings, that we are willing to return into the same languishing Condition, of which we are so lately recovered, and have pay'd so dear for the Cure? Let the Pleaders for a Standing Army consider, how much a Standing Army was accounted a Grievance in the late Reigns, and how much it tended to the destruction of the King that rais'd it, and they may esteem their designs impracticable; for it can be no other than a Reflection upon the Wisdom of the Eng-

with Nation, voluntarily to give one King what they forc'd from another, to secure themselves in the peaceable possession of their Estates: and no wise Man can imagine, that in a Government founded on good and wholesom Laws, a thing that turn'd one King out of the Throne, should keep another in it. If you have the same People to manage this Standing Army, that managed the late K. *James's* you have the same People to oppose this Standing Army as oppos'd the other; and in all likelihood you'l be brought into the same Disorder and Confusion: wherefore I think, all things considered, you had better be without it.

Thus far, Sir, I have ventur'd out of my Element, to give you my Sentiments of Affairs ashoar; now suffer me to step aboard my Ship, and give an account of another Security to our Kingdom little heeded or talk'd of, I mean our Shipping. It is suppos'd these horrible Invaders will not fly over the Seas in the Air, nor will they shove themselves over in leaden Boats under Water; they are compounded of Flesh, Blood and Bones, contrary to the nature of Spirits; they are visible and tangible Substances: therefore let us consider how we Sailors may handle them; for it is a demonstrable Argument; if we can drown or burn them at Sea, you'l have no occasion of a Land Army to knock 'em oth' head shoar. By your insisting so much upon a Land Force as necessary to withstand an Invasion, you seem to yield up the Empire and Dominion of the Sea, which I am very unwilling to grant, knowing the English have no Rivals in that Affair, nor no Nation capable of taking possession of that Dominion. If we could beat an Enemy at *la Hogue*, and burn fourteen of their three Deck Ships at one time, and might have quite ruin'd them at Sea then, had it not been for the wonderful good Nature of you know who; I say, if we could do what they have not yet been able to recruit, nor perhaps never will unless we sell 'em Timber to build more ships; if they have lost their Ships, and we have augmented ours by a far greater number than they have lost, I hope we are not now less able to fight an Invader. I suppose the Disbarkment of the Prince of *Orange* was carried on with as much secrecy as an Invasion will be, yet we know how long

it was talk'd of, and how long expected before it came. Consider in the next place, how many Ships an Invader must have to bring over Men enow to conquer this Kingdom. Now if six or seven hundred Ships were requisite to bring over at most but Fourteen thousand five hundred Men, how many well be necessary to make an Invasion upon *England* in order to conquer it? Their numbers must be much greater, they come without leave and undesired; and Invaders let 'em be of what Country soever, or of what Religion soever, are hated by Englishmen. The Prince of *Orange's* Descent upon *England* was no Invasion but an Invitation, and his Accession to the Throne no Conquest (whatever two or three insignificant Priests have wrote) but the free Gift and Benevolence of the good People of *England*. Yet notwithstanding all Parties were agreed in his Revolution, how many Accidents happen'd? How often was the Fleet detain'd by contrary Winds? and when at Sea, forc'd to steer a Channell Course, and in a Line too, which made 'em seen by both shores. But this Invading Fleet that must have at least ten times the number of Men, and consequently of Shipping, are to come over undiscover'd. From what place will they come? Why this is the main point; the honest Men in Offices tell of an Invasion, and it is to be done by somebody, that they will not dare name for fear of being Gazetted, and ordered to be prosecuted, as *Dick Baldwin* was for reflecting upon some great Person at the French Court. They had better run the hazard of Prosecution, and tell the truth; the Prosecution may be bought off, *Mr. Baldwin* gave but eight Guinea's to *Harry B.*—and three to his Brother *N.*—and the Prosecution was at an end. But this Invasion can't be brib'd off the Invaders will not stay for Gratuities, all is their own when they have conquer'd, and into this Condition we may be brought, because our Standing Army-men are mealy mouth'd and won't speak out. An Invasion may well be a Proposition of Horror to them, when the very Invaders and the Country they come from, cramp their Tongues, and frightens them speechless, so that Twenty thousand Men and nothing else, can bring them again to their Senses. If they would tell us the Country they'l come from

from, I could give you my opinion in the matter; if I knew their Country, I should know their Ports, and what Conveniencies they have for Shipping their Men; But I'm sure they have no Conveniency of landing them in *England* unless we please: All we can learn from them is, that 'tis the *Man abroad*, and abundance of Men there are abroad, and which of 'em 'tis we can't tell; this *Man* may be somebody or nobody, or anybody or everybody, since he has no name. He may be the *Man in the Moon* for ought we know, and then we are in a fine condition; his is a Country we know nothing of, nor what kind of People he will bring with him, nor what sort of Weapons they use in Battel: He is certainly an Enemy, because he is no Friend, and a powerful Enemy too; his Dominions are very large, and for ought we know very populous; and if he should descend upon *Salisbury Plain* with two or three hundred thousand Mortals, why then the Cathedral Church there will be invaded by Men of a Religion, that have not been educated to mumble the Prayers in *usum suum*; and the best *State* in the Hedge of one of our Bishops is quite lost. The more I think of it, the more am I terrify'd at the Apprehension of such an Invasion; what a horrid terrifying Spectacle will it be to see Men (nay for ought we know Monsters) descend like Hail upon our Country; where our Ships can't come, and nothing but Twenty thousand regular Troops can oppose? How will our Women and Children be frighted; and our old Men astonish'd at such an Apparition, worse than that at *Punbeck*? Now I should think it most proper, to prevent an Invasion from this Country, to send an Ambassador thither: We have not given the *Man* nor any of his Subjects, any affront that I know of; and a Truce or Peace is far better than War, as the Turks and Germans on both sides affirm; and we have Men of Parts and Sense enough in our Nation to send on such an Embassy: We know the Country is very high, yet we are provided with very high Flyers in our Government that have mount'd from Footboys, Journeymen and Valets, to Commissioners, and other great Officers; one or two of these on this Embassy may put an end to our Fears, and render Twenty thousand armed Men useless: I could pick a Man or two out of our Officers fit for this Embassy, that have risen with a wonderful Impudence at home, and will no doubt carry a good Stock abroad with them: These high Flyers have one Conveniency in mounting above the rest of Mankind, they have no weight of Brains to retard their Flight upwards; and if there is any M-nicy in the World in the Moon, they'll load enough in their Pockets to hasten their descent downwards: If they say my Invasion is ridiculous, I say so of theirs, as also Twenty thousand Men to withstand it, and keep out a Force which all *England* can't beside do. — Well, it seems we must still be in the dark about this Invasion, the Army Authors won't tell us whence it will come, and yet tell us a dismal Story of its coming; so that we are left to bare supposition, which puts nothing at all into being, but in the Foster-father of Non entities: We have suppos'd it from above the Clouds already, let us descend and view the Terrestrial Globe, view the Coasts

of our Neighbours, and see from which of them all a Fleet of Ships could launch forth into the deep, and pass the Ocean with an Army without Obstruction from the Royal Navy: 'Tis Nonsense to suppose this Invasion to come from *Holland*, which so lately assisted us with Forces in order to recover our lost Liberties; those that helped knock our Fetters off, will not be for putting them on so soon already. But suppose *Holland* had design upon *England*, let us consider how impracticable such a design would be, whilst *England* has so good a Fleet of Sheeps of War: Those Auxiliar Forces they lent the good People of *England* upon the Revolution, not without abundance of Obstacle and Difficulties in shipping the Horses and Men, which kept the Enterprize so far back, that the very Regiments, and Names of the Colonels commanding those Regiments, and an exact Account of the Number of the Men, Horses and Foot, was printed in the English Gazette long before they saw the Coast of *England*; so that the the English Nation had then as much time to prepare to oppose them, as they been as willing, as they had to prepare to receive them; *Pollet non fit injuria*. The Revolution pleas'd the Nation, if the major part of the People may be called so. The Fleet under the Command of the Earl of *Dartmouth*, and in a proper Station too, could easily have obstructed that Expedition: But the Seamen were in a Confederacy with the Landmen in the Interest of their Country, and I hope in God ever will be; and it is not often the English Fleet has lost an Armed Navy: passing through their Channel without one Broadside.

We must imagine it not come from *France* immediately after the Ratification of a solemn Peace, so honourable to the English Nation: But suppose *France* at any time should have the Vanity to invade *England*; will not our Navy be sufficient to put a stop to such an Invasion? The French Councils perhaps are as secret as any in the World, and tho' vulgar Bys cannot pry into the Cabinets of that Prince, yet his first and second Rat Men of War are easily discerned; I hope they'll rig their Ship before they put them to Sea, they'll careen, and gun, and man them, and all this can't be done in a Chimney-Corner: Their Caplbers, Hammers, and Carpenters adzes, will make some noise; we shall hear something of it sure. Consider their Ports, and where their Ships are laid up, and you may easily conclude they can't soon join upon such a design. Besides, the must rendezvous somewhere, and that Wind which brings one half of the Fleet to the place of rendezvous, keeps the other half back; so that if the Peace did not put us out of this danger, our Fleet would be a sufficient Guard against it. — *Spain* is in a firm Alliance with us, and had good Belly-full of Invasion in 83, which is not yet digested; and the Northern Crowns never made any Pretensions of this nature; so that I dares boldly affirm we are in no danger of an Invasion from any known part of the World, and the *Terra Incognita* is a long way off.

In the short view I have taken of the Condition of our Neighbours and their strength in Shipping, compar'd with the Naval Force and Maritime Strength of *England*, I believe if all of them should intend an Invasion upon *England*, they could not accomplish it. For, as I have said before, it cannot be done but we must have notice of it; and while they

...fitting out their Fleet we may do the same: our Fleet being out, and divided into Squadrons, appointed in proper Stations, would easily intercept them.

Now the Usefulness of a Fleet, as the best Guard to England, is evident, not only from Reason, but from undoubted History, and plain Matter of Fact; many Instances whereof our Poets often at Sea talk and boast of, many of which I could instance in, were I not too far gone already beyond the Limits of a Letter. But however I must tack about again upon your Land-Army Folk; and to avoid all Animosities, Quarrels and Heats, I shall not tell how much nor how little was done during this War by the Land-Army in *Flanders*; but shall only hint what might rationally have been done by the Fleet under a good Management and Conduct. Of so many Millions of Money that have been spent during this War in Land Forces, suppose some of that Money and those Forces had been used on board the Navy, would not fifteen or twenty Thousand of them thus employed, have done more Mischief to the Enemy than fifty or three score thousand in *Flanders*? They might have landed in their Country, their most vulnerable part, which we have so gently touch'd; such a Force would have been sufficient to have ravag'd 10 or 20 Miles round in their Country, and when the Enemy had got sufficient Force together to repel them, they might even have march'd aboard again with their Plunder: and coasting along their Country, in two or three days time have landed again a hundred Miles from the place they landed in before, and retired aboard as before, and practis'd this Trade along their Coast from East to West; this would have been a tiresome Diversion indeed: They would thus have had no time to sow or reap, or dress their Vineyards; this would have weakened their Armies abroad, perpetually harass'd their Rear-ban at home, kept their Peasants from their Employments, and fill'd 'em with fears and Alarms. Being kept continually waking, it might have alter'd the temper of an imperious aspiring Enemy; waking they say will tame a mad Horse, why not a mad Tyrant? But whether our Mismanagements have been occasion'd thro Ignorance of the Managers, or thro an evil Design against our Country, is yet left to determine; but both are equally noxious to a Nation, and by continued Successions of Grievances without redress, the most flourishing Kingdom, the most glorious Monarch, and most warlike People may at once be empoverish'd at home, and grow indolent abroad; for nothing conduces more to the Honour and Glory of a Nation than the good opinion foreign States and Governments have of their Management; they'll give respect according to the Polity of their Government; if wise they'll court its Favour, if foolish they'll despise it. Tho' a Man be strong and rich, his Adversary values it not, knoweth his blind side, and how to cully him out of his Birth-right. The Management of our Maritime Affairs has been the common Subject of all

